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ice on the Labrador, apart from glacial sculpturing, appears to be almost altogether due to the periodical action of pan-ice deriving its power and constant opportunities from the arctic current, which presses continually on the Labrador coast."

NEW FOSSIL FISHES FROM WYOMING. — At a recent meeting of the American Philosophical Society, Professor Cope announced the discovery of a new locality of the Green River shales, containing fishes, insects, and plants in a good state of preservation. Owing to the rather soft nature of the matrix the characters of the fishes could be worked out with much nicety. A collection which he had recently received includes sixteen species of fishes, mostly new. Their names are as follows: —

? *Chromididae*: *Priscacara serrata* Cope; *P. cypha* Cope; *P. liops* Cope.

Percidae: *Mioplosus abbreviatus* Cope; *M. labracoides* Cope; *M. Beanii* Cope; *M. longus* Cope.

Asineopidae: *Asineops pauciradiatus* Cope.

? *Aphredodiridae*: *Erismatopterus Endlichii* Cope; *Amphiplaga brachyptera* Cope.

Clupeidae: *Diplomystus dentatus* Cope; *D. analis* Cope; *D. pectorosus* Cope; *D. humilis* Leidy; *D. altus* Leidy.

Osteoglossidae: *Dapedoglossus testis* Cope; *D. encaustus* Cope.

Of the above genera all but two are new to science, and all of the species but three are likewise new. From the present collection something like a general view of the ichthyological fauna can be obtained, since the predominant types are probably represented in it. *Priscacara* is a Pharyngognath allied to the *Chromididae* and *Pomacentridae*, most nearly to the former; and *Dapedoglossus* is not far removed from *Arapæma* and *Osteoglossum*. The facies of the fauna is of a mixed character, both fresh-water and marine types being present. The largest species is the *Osteoglossum encaustum*; the second in size is the *Diplomystus dentatus*, which exceeds the moss-bunker (*Brevurtia menhaden*).

The species and genera are in process of publication in the Bulletin of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories.

GEOGRAPHY AND EXPLORATION.

RISE OF GREAT SALT LAKE. — While I was spending a few days in June last at Salt Lake, my attention was called to the evident rise in the Great Salt Lake, which had taken place since my last visit to the lake, in August, 1875. The point where I noticed the fact of a rise was at Farmington, Utah, where from overflowed salt vats that were above water in 1875, and from the wearing away of the shore, I roughly judged that the lake had risen at least twelve inches. Mr. W. V. Haight, a farmer, who owns the land at the point visited, confirmed my impressions. At Lake Point, twenty miles east of Salt Lake City, the captain of the steamer General Garfield informed me that

from marks made by himself, on the piles of the wharf, the lake is fifteen inches higher than in July, 1875. It is to be hoped that the U. S. geologists will measure the oscillations of the lake.

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS.—The *Geographical Magazine* for June contains a map of the seat of war in Asia, which is intended to assist its readers in following the military operations now being carried on in Asia. The editor observes that it possesses but few claims to accuracy, for of the countries delineated only a small portion has been made known to us through the surveys of Russian officers and of other Europeans, some of them in the service of Turkey.

Corea having entered into a treaty with Japan, there are prospects that this last of exclusive nations in the far East will have intercourse with other countries. A general account of Corea is given in the *Geographical Magazine*. A new map of Japan has been compiled by R. H. Brunton, formerly engineer-in-chief of the Japanese Light-House Department. It is said to be the only map of Japan which can be consulted with confidence. It is published by Trübner & Co., London. The Darien Exploring Expedition, under command of M. Lucien N. B. Wyse, returned to Panama early in April. M. Wyse has expressed his conviction, based on the results of these surveys, that the inter-oceanic canal will soon be made through Columbia. The proposed canal will have a length of 143 miles, including 46 miles of the Atrato and 43 of the Tuyra, which can be rendered navigable at small expense. At the confluence of Tuyra and Pucro the elevation above the sea is 92 feet, and it appears from a reconnaissance that the height of the water parting at the head of the Tihule does not exceed 230 feet. The late Dr. Maack, who was attached to the American Expedition as geologist, ascertained that the two oceans formerly communicated near this spot. The fossils discovered belonged to species still existing in the two oceans. The engineers would, therefore, only have to break through this barrier, which has been formed by an upheaval of the tertiary strata.

At the meeting of the Berlin Geographical Society, held May 12th, Baron Richthofen read a paper on the roads followed by the silk trade, according to Ptolemy and the Chinese authorities. It was announced at this meeting that Dr. Nachtigal proposed to start for Western Africa next year. In the mean time, it is proposed to dispatch a pioneer explorer to follow in the footsteps of Pogge and Mohr.

MICROSCOPY.¹

ANOTHER MECHANICAL FINGER.—Mr. Hanks, of San Francisco, Cal., at a recent meeting of the San Francisco Microscopical Society described a device used by him for picking up objects under the microscope, which answers nearly all the purposes of the most elaborate mechanical finger, and at the same time requires no extra apparatus. For the

¹ Conducted by DR. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.